



**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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PHILIP L. BROWNING
Director

February 21, 2012

Board of Supervisors

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To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Philip L. Browning
Director

**RESPONSE TO THE OCTOBER 11, 2011 MOTION COMPILING LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DATA ON CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT AND DEATHS**

On October 11, 2011, on motion of Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer and all affected agencies that partner in child welfare services, County Counsel and the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, (ICAN), was directed to report back in 30 days and quarterly thereafter on a mechanism by which to comprehensively report on child abuse, neglect and deaths in a meaningful way to inform the Board's child safety, permanency and self-sufficiency policy decisions.

We are submitting a summary of DCFS' Child Fatality data for the period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, which also includes a summary of In-Person Response Referrals by allegation type and number substantiated (see Attachment). In our November 10, 2011 response, we stated that DCFS and ICAN will include a reconciliation and review of data sets in order to identify the differences between ICAN child death data and SB 39 data. ICAN and DCFS have agreed to meet on a quarterly basis to analyze and compare ICAN's data set against DCFS' data set. These meetings will be important as they will enable ICAN and DCFS to ensure that the data sets that each collects are consistent and that any variances in the data can be explained.

We have identified a significant reason for the variance in the two data sets. ICAN uses Coroner/Medical Examiner findings and nomenclature for child fatalities (this nomenclature includes final modes of death as determined by the Coroner including homicide, suicide, accident and undetermined). DCFS data collection is not dependent upon Coroner final determinations. Currently, ICAN is formatting 2010 data for its annual report and compiling 2011 data as Coroner final determinations are made. DCFS has compiled 2011 data and is

currently collecting 2012 data. We are working to compare real-time data even though our collection periods are different.

Further, DCFS's data set regarding child fatalities incorporates the requirements and standards of SB 39, which are slightly different from the Coroner's determinations that are used by ICAN. DCFS has provided ICAN with 2010 data in order for ICAN to compare their 2010 data prior to the release of ICAN's annual report. ICAN is also in the process of devising a system to allow for some of its data to be reported on a quarterly basis.

DCFS continues to work with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Office to establish a Memorandum of Understanding to regularly obtain their index data, which includes all information on certificates of death. ICAN continues to meet with numerous agencies that partner in child welfare services, including the Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Department of Health Services, Department of Mental Health, Probation Department, Schools, District Attorney, Los Angeles City Attorney and DCFS. ICAN also plans to build an inventory of records used by other Child Death Review Teams including: birth records, school records, public and private medical records, previous domestic violence records, probation, parole, emergency medical responses and the number and age of siblings. We anticipate that the application of these data sets to a manageable target group can be tested by beginning with applying them to the infant homicide cases for one year.

Lastly, the ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review continues their work with other teams and experts nationally to share resources, including models on how to review, manage and prevent fatal and severe child abuse. ICAN will be working to expand their data collection system and ensure that the information learned from case reviews is compiled in a comprehensive and cohesive fashion so that case data and other resources can be shared with line staff who work directly with the children and families we serve.

DCFS continues to work on developing a mechanism to provide comprehensive meaningful and concise data on child abuse and neglect to inform the Board's child safety, permanency and self-sufficiency policy decisions. We will provide the Board with an update regarding the requested data and information in 90 days.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Aldo Marin, Manager, DCFS Board Relations Section, at (213) 351-5530.

PB:JL
FL:af

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect

Los Angeles County, Department of Children and Family Services
In-Person Response Referrals and Child Fatality Data Summary
All Quarters from Jan 1, 2011 to Dec 31, 2011

IN-PERSON RESPONSE REFERRALS

ALLEGATION TYPE	2011 - Q1			2011 - Q2			2011 - Q3			2011 - Q4			TOTAL REFERRAL CHILDREN	TOTAL SUBSTANTIATED REFERRAL
	REFERRAL CHILDREN	SUBSTANTIATED REFERRAL	Total	REFERRAL CHILDREN	SUBSTANTIATED REFERRAL	Total	REFERRAL CHILDREN	SUBSTANTIATED REFERRAL	Total	REFERRAL CHILDREN	SUBSTANTIATED REFERRAL	Total		
General Neglect	11,071	3,547	12,136	12,136	3,868	12,075	10,523	2,332	45,805	13,397	13,397	13,397	45,805	13,397
Emotional Abuse	5,287	1,911	5,318	5,318	1,798	5,034	4,671	983	20,310	6,322	6,322	6,322	20,310	6,322
At Risk sibling abused	9,540	1,075	9,863	9,863	1,260	7,309	864	9,159	35,871	3,846	3,846	3,846	35,871	3,846
Physical Abuse	7,222	946	7,387	7,387	1,044	6,004	7,458	585	28,071	3,325	3,325	3,325	28,071	3,325
Sexual Abuse	2,454	507	2,554	2,554	514	2,266	421	2,513	9,787	1,748	1,748	1,748	9,787	1,748
Caretaker Absence/Incapacity	738	481	771	771	465	749	412	577	2,835	1,669	1,669	1,669	2,835	1,669
Severe Neglect	524	197	502	502	185	627	605	155	2,258	764	764	764	2,258	764
Exploitation	16	8	26	26	4	5	25	4	72	17	17	17	72	17
Grand Total	36,852	8,672	38,557	38,557	9,129	34,059	35,531	5,323	145,009	31,088	31,088	31,088	145,009	31,088

NOTE: Total Referral received from Jan 1, 2011 to Dec 31, 2011 from DCFS Datamart as of Jan 10, 2012.

CHILD FATALITY DATA SUMMARY

DEATHS (SB39)	2011 - Q1			2011 - Q2			2011 - Q3			2011 - Q4			Total 2011 - Q4	Grand Total
	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q1	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q2	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q3	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q4		
SB39 A	6	9	15	3	3	6	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	24
SB39 A & C	5	5	10	9	6	15	2	3	5	1	3	4	34	34
Pending Final Determination	0	1	1	1	1	2	5	5	10	2	2	4	17	17
Grand Total	11	15	26	13	10	23	9	8	17	3	6	9	75	75

Sub A: Final determination concluded that the fatality only met subdivision A criteria (Reasonable Suspicion that the fatality was caused by abuse and/or neglect)

Sub A & C: Final determination concluded that the fatality met subdivision C criteria (the fatality is confirmed to be caused by abuse and/or neglect)

Pending Final Determination: Initial determination concluded that the fatality only met subdivision A criteria but no final determination has been made as of the report date February 1, 2012.

FINAL MODE OF DEATH	2011 - Q1			2011 - Q2			2011 - Q3			2011 - Q4			Total 2011 - Q4	Grand Total
	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q1	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q2	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q3	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q4		
Homicide	7	7	14	8	6	14	3	3	6	1	1	2	36	36
Accidental	7	10	17	7	13	20	12	12	24	0	0	3	64	64
Natural	4	11	15	3	9	12	2	7	9	0	0	0	36	36
Suicide	3	2	5	3	0	3	3	1	3	0	0	2	13	13
Undetermined	4	17	21	9	10	19	7	6	13	0	0	0	53	53
Pending Coroner's Report	4	2	6	13	8	21	10	16	26	32	39	71	124	124
Not a Coroner Case	4	3	7	5	1	6	5	0	5	10	2	12	30	30
Grand Total	33	52	85	48	47	95	40	46	86	43	47	90	356	356

AGE RANGE	2011 - Q1			2011 - Q2			2011 - Q3			2011 - Q4			Total 2011 - Q4	Grand Total
	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q1	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q2	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q3	With Prior History	Without Prior History	Total 2011 - Q4		
Prenatal	7	7	14	4	7	11	5	8	13	6	6	12	60	60
Infants (0-1)	9	22	31	19	19	38	14	17	31	17	19	36	136	136
Children (2-11)	3	8	11	12	20	32	10	5	15	2	6	8	55	55
Teenagers (12-17)	14	14	28	17	9	26	11	16	27	17	16	33	114	114
Young Adults (18-21)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Grand Total	33	52	85	48	47	95	40	46	86	43	47	90	356	356

CHILD FATALITY DATA SUMMARY

GENDER	2011 - Q1		Total 2011 - Q1	2011 - Q2		Total 2011 - Q2	2011 - Q3		Total 2011 - Q3	2011 - Q4		Total 2011 - Q4	Grand Total
	With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		
Male	23	33	56	29	27	56	26	26	52	26	28	54	218
Female	10	18	28	19	19	38	12	19	31	17	19	36	133
Unknown	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	3	0	0	0	5
Grand Total	33	52	85	48	47	95	40	46	86	43	47	90	356

ETHNICITY	2011 - Q1		Total 2011 - Q1	2011 - Q2		Total 2011 - Q2	2011 - Q3		Total 2011 - Q3	2011 - Q4		Total 2011 - Q4	Grand Total
	With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		
Hispanic/Latino	23	26	49	18	29	47	23	25	48	19	22	41	185
African American	5	12	17	18	6	24	13	11	24	14	6	20	85
White	3	11	14	9	4	13	2	5	7	8	10	18	52
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	3	4	1	6	7	1	2	3	2	5	7	21
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	0	1	2	2	4	1	3	4	1	4	4	13
Grand Total	33	52	85	48	47	95	40	46	86	43	47	90	356

DCFS STATUS AT DATE OF DEATH	2011 - Q1		Total 2011 - Q1	2011 - Q2		Total 2011 - Q2	2011 - Q3		Total 2011 - Q3	2011 - Q4		Total 2011 - Q4	Grand Total
	With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		
Child - Open Case at DOD	2	0	2	11	0	11	6	0	6	10	0	10	29
Child - Open Referral at DOD	2	0	2	4	0	4	3	0	3	2	0	2	11
Child - Prior Case	5	0	5	7	0	7	5	0	5	5	0	5	22
Child - Prior Referral	14	0	14	9	0	9	11	0	11	12	0	12	46
Sibling Referrals	10	0	10	17	0	17	15	0	15	14	0	14	56
No Prior DCFS History	0	52	52	0	47	47	0	46	46	0	47	47	192
Grand Total	33	52	85	48	47	95	40	46	86	43	47	90	356

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT (Incident Location)	2011 - Q1		Total 2011 - Q1	2011 - Q2		Total 2011 - Q2	2011 - Q3		Total 2011 - Q3	2011 - Q4		Total 2011 - Q4	Grand Total
	With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		With Prior History	Without Prior History		
SUP 1	7	6	13	4	8	12	5	8	13	7	5	12	50
SUP 2	10	15	25	15	14	29	8	15	23	12	8	20	97
SUP 3	7	10	17	4	3	7	4	3	7	3	5	8	39
SUP 4	5	9	14	11	8	19	8	9	17	13	10	23	73
SUP 5	3	12	15	11	11	22	12	10	22	8	19	27	86
Outside of LA County	1	0	1	2	1	3	2	1	3	0	0	0	7
Unknown	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
Grand Total	33	52	85	48	47	95	40	46	86	43	47	90	356

NOTE: Child Fatality data summary from DCFS CMS/CMS database as of February 1, 2012.